



EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



298178

Amoco Petroleum Additives Company

Post Office Box 182
Wood River, Illinois 62095-0182
618 251-2200

Henry A. McCandless
Vice President, Manufacturing

October 18, 1984

Jeff Benbenek
Division of Air Pollution Control
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
115A West Main Street
Collinsville, Illinois 62234

119 115 AAA

Dear Sir:

Report of Excessive Emission

On October 12, 1984, at 12:20 A.M., an excessive hydrocarbon emission occurred at the Polypropylene Unit. The episode was the result of a pressure-relief valve opening and venting to the unit flare. The line from the relief valve to an intermediate knockout drum developed a leak from either thermal shock due to rapid vaporization of the propane/propylene or excessive line pressure. A propane/propylene vapor cloud was released through the leak. Plant fire crews were called to the scene to disperse the vapor and minimize potential danger to the plant. Local Wood River authorities responded to protect life and property in the adjacent residential areas. By 1 A.M., the situation had been stabilized.

The quantity of propane/propylene passing through the relief valve is estimated to be 4,600 lbs. Some of the material was incinerated in the flare, while the remainder was emitted through the line leak. The proportion passing through each source is unknown.

The major action that has been taken to prevent a similar episode is inspection of flare-line wall thickness and replacement of deficient sections.

If you have further questions relating to this incident, please contact R. A. Sumner at (618)-251-2228.

Yours truly,

Henry A. McCandless

RAS/sjd

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REGION III, DAPC

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